



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Statement from Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore

Over the last few days, we have been confronted by hideous examples of deep racism and discrimination that continue to plague our country. I was sickened and horrified by the death of George Floyd. I denounce his death at the hands of a police officer and offer my heartfelt condolences to Mr. Floyd's family and loved ones during this incredibly painful time.

As your District Attorney, I am charged with keeping our community safe by seeking justice for everyone regardless of skin color, immigration status, or zip code. I strongly believe in the first amendment right of citizens to protest. However, I do not support the destruction of property. Additionally, any violence and unnecessary force by police officers against peaceful protesters is not tolerable.

There have been many graphic photos which appear to depict peaceful protestors being attacked by officers. If you feel your rights have been violated by a police officer, please file an official complaint with the Office of Police Oversight (OPO) in order to initiate a formal investigation. The OPO provides impartial oversight of the Austin Police Department and its officers.

**No person is above the law.**

The Civil Rights Unit within the District Attorney's Office keeps police officers accountable. We insist on thorough investigations, maximum transparency, and impeccable fairness when it comes to officer-involved cases. The Unit is tasked with building community confidence in the way we handle these cases.

**Following a review of the case with my Civil Rights Director, we determined the officer-involved shooting death of Michael Ramos of Austin will be presented to a special Grand Jury.**

This speaks to our work to address violence and brutality against members of our community. In order to keep our Civil Rights Unit accountable to the public, a Civil Rights Advisory Council was developed. This council is made up of Black and Hispanic community leaders including, NAACP Austin President Nelson Linder, LULAC leader Linda Chavez, and Austin Justice Coalition Executive Director Chas Moore, among others. While I cannot guarantee the outcome of these cases — no honest prosecutor can guarantee convictions — I can guarantee that the process will be meticulously fair. And the decisions made, will be explained to this community.

As a Caucasian woman, I know we have to look within ourselves to begin to address the unfairness and injustice that is evident in our history.

I see you and hear you and I am ready to work alongside you.

Margaret Moore  
Travis County District Attorney